

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present Application. Claims 3, 7, and 15 have been amended, leaving Claims 1-22 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error.

Applicants have amended claim 3 in order to use "alternative" rather than Markush language.

Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to remove a redundant "or" in the list of possible cations.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-14 and 16-22.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3, 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that it is unclear how a combination can comprise one acid.

Applicants respectfully believe that the claim as amended is definite. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, which recites that the compositions further comprises "a" carboxylic acid having two to six carbon atoms. It is well established that in the context of a claim, the indefinite article "a" is inclusive of one or more of the recited claim elements. Thus, claim 2 covers a composition containing either a single carboxylic acid or multiple carboxylic acids having two to six carbon atoms. The "combination" in claim 3 refers to the embodiment wherein multiple carboxylic acids are present.

Claims 7 and 15 further limit the identity of "A" in formula (5) of claims 1 and 13. Here, claims 1 and 13 as amended recite "a" polyglycol ether. Thus, claims 1 and 13 encompass a

composition having one or more polyglycol ethers of formula (5). When multiple polyglycol ethers are present, different types of "A" can be present, that is, "A" can be a "mixture" comprising one or more of the recited cations.

In view of the foregoing comments, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with the above analysis, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to resolve this issue.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0888.

Respectfully submitted,

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